

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Telephonic Interview

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner the courtesy to extend to Applicant's representative a telephonic interview on July 19, 2006. During the telephonic interview, the grounds for rejection of the pending claims over U.S. Patent App. 2002/0039232 to Takeyama, as stated in the Final Office action dated November 16, 2005, were discussed.

As noted by the July 21, 2006 Interview Summary provided by the Examiner, "Applicant argued the prior art failed to teach or suggest the claimed reflection sequence of the current claim language. The examiner stated that the reflection sequence argued by the applicant was not specifically claimed in the claim language. The examiner suggested an amendment to clarify the reflection sequence that appears to overcome the prior art of record."

As shown herein, claim 1 has been amended to reflect the Examiner's proposed changes.

B. Status of the Claims and Explanation of the Amendments

Currently, claims 1-27 are pending. Of these claims, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13-17, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0039232 to Takeyama ("Takeyama"). Claims 3 and 7-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takeyama, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,057 to Yamazaki ("Yamazaki"). Claims 18-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takeyama, in view of U.S. Application No. 2003/0107816 to Takagi ("Takagi"). Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

allegedly being unpatentable over Takeyama, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,917,662 to Sekita (“Sekita”).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to further include language suggested by the Examiner during the July 19, 2006 telephonic interview. Specifically, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, “[a]n optical system comprising: a plurality of optical surfaces including a first surface on which light rays from an object are reflected, and a second surface . . . wherein the first surface reflects a central field-angle principal ray, which comes from the second surface and is again reflected on the first surface . . .”

Support for these claim amendments is found throughout the application as originally filed, including Figure 1 and its associated text. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

C. Claim 1 is Patentably Distinct from Takeyama

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13-17, and 26 for allegedly being anticipated by Takeyama. Briefly, Takeyama fails to teach, disclose, or suggest all of the claim elements in Applicant’s claims. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn. MPEP §2131.

1. Takeyama Fails to Teach or Disclose
Applicant’s Claim 1

In rejecting Applicant’s claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13-17, and 26, the Final Office Action alleged that Takeyama discloses all of the elements of Applicant’s independent claim [11/16/2005 Office Action, page 3].

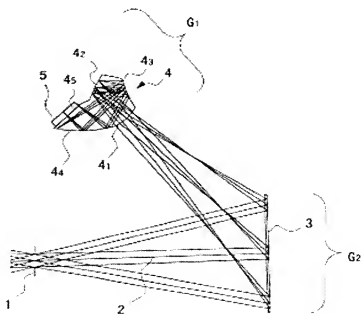
Amended independent claim 1 recites,

[a]n optical system, comprising: a plurality of optical surfaces including a first surface on which light rays from an object are reflected, and a second surface reflecting the light rays reflected by the first

surface back toward the first surface; wherein the first surface reflects a central field-angle principal ray, *which comes from the second surface and is again reflected on the first surface*, to the opposite side of the previous reflection with respect to a normal at a hit point of the central field-angle principal ray on the first surface; and wherein the plurality of optical surfaces includes a diffractive optical surface. (emphasis added).

Takeyama describes prism 4 of Figure 1 using reference numerals 4₁, 4₂, 4₃, 4₄, and 4₅. (Figure 1, see below). The 11/16/2005 Final Office Action alleges that Takeyama discloses an optical system:

comprising a plurality of optical surfaces including a first surface (4₁ and 4₄) on which light rays from an object (5) are incident (Fig. 1) and which has at least a reflective action (Fig. 1), and a second surface (4₂) reflecting the light rays reflected by the first surface back toward the first surface (Fig. 1)



Applicant submits that Takeyama does not teach or suggest the optical system of Applicant's claim 1. The optical system disclosed in Takeyama teaches a reflection sequence as follows: light from object 5 travels to alleged first surface (4₁ and 4₄) where it is reflected to

surface 4₃, then is reflected by surface 4₂ and then passes through alleged first surface (4₁ and 4₄) to hologram 3. (Figure 1, see above). Thus, light reflected off surface 4₃ (or 4₂) is never **“again reflected on the first surface,”** as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Takeyama fails to teach, disclose, or suggest all of the claim elements in Applicant’s claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Finally, Applicants have not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claim, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

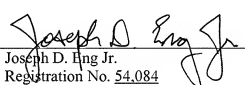
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-5261. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-5261. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: August 9, 2006

By: _____


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